

Buckland Board of Health
 Meeting Minutes
 December 11, 2019 6:00 p.m.
 Buckland Town Hall

AGENDA

1. Open the meeting.
2. Review November minutes and approve.
3. Greg Lewis - PHEP Grant and local BOH roles in emergency response.
4. Consider change to regular meeting time and day - Health agent scheduling conflict.
5. Potential distillery/cidery on Upper Street - issues?
6. Single Use Plastics Ban enforcement - discussion.
7. Report - UMass/LMZ Tick Symposium
8. Report - Buckland All-Chairs meeting December 5.
9. Open and process mail.
10. Any other items not reasonably anticipated by Chairman 48 hours prior to meeting.
11. Public comment.
12. Adjourn the meeting.

ATTENDEES

Ricahard Warner - BOH Chair
 Terry Estes - BOH Member
 Martha Taft-Ferguson - BOH Member
 Randy Crochier - Health Agent
 Greg Lewis - FRCOG, PHEP Planner
 Mary Bolduc - Boards' Clerk

MEETING

1. Open the meeting - Meeting opened at 6:10 p.m.
2. Review November minutes and approve - Board members reviewed November minutes. Rich moved to approve, seconded by Terry. Vote to approve was unanimous.
3. Greg Lewis, PHEP Grant and local BOH roles in emergency preparedness -
 1. Greg gave a presentation on Public Health Emergency Preparedness and solicited comments/ideas/responses from BOH members.
 2. His office/position in FRCOG aids communities in recovering from public health emergencies. Because there is no county government or county health agent, he is charged with seeing what each Board of Health has to offer and what is needed.
 3. Discussions on non-pharmaceutical intervention and stopping the spread of infectious diseases.
 4. Question was raised if emergency preparedness is really the duty of the BOH.

5. When asked for thoughts on emergencies, Terry answered that Buckland has very dependable/capable emergency responders. Marti added that Herb Guyette, Fire Chief, would be looked to for guidance. Greg explained that BOH's role would be subordinate to responders, not a decision making role.
6. Rich Warner stated he would get involved as a physician, separate from his BOH duties.
7. MAPHCO - How can it make itself more useful? Effective?
 1. Make offerings more diverse in terms of content and locations.
 2. Could present an "a la carte" menu of offerings and ask what the level of interest is and if any could be presented in a local area, convenient to the BOH.
 3. When asked if members would look at potential menu offerings as suggested above, all BOH members answered affirmatively.
 4. If Buckland were to adopt an emergency management team, members were asked if they would be more comfortable as part of a team, rather than in charge. "If an emergency were to happen right now, on a scale of 1 - 10, what is your level of interest in participating?" As a Board, their collective interest scored a 4.
 5. Greg posed the scenario if, for example, a pandemic influenza were to occur, would that number change? In that situation, Board's collective score was 6- 7.
 6. Board members expressed the priority for home and family responsibilities during emergencies.
 7. MAPHCO is altering its membership structure,
 1. Currently comprised of BOH members only.
 2. Going to include other town officials.
 3. Will make all BOH's aware before changing structure.
8. Greg inquired as to the Board's skills and services. Discussion followed on Board activities regarding community outreach.
 1. Robo-calls, but only as effective as the limited number of residents it reaches. Marti to find out actual robo-call number.
 2. Newspaper, Greenfield Recorder and Independent.
 3. Post information and events on public bulletin boards.
 4. Presence at Bridge of Flowers plant sale offering information on ticks and tick borne diseases. Same presentation also at Buckland Library.
9. Discussion on quarantine and isolation, and differences between the two.
 1. Terry asked if Rabies quarantine includes people. Marti answered it does not; it applies only to animals..
 2. Quarantine can infringe on on personal rights of freedom of movement. CDC recommends non-enforced, voluntary quarantine.
 3. Recommendation for training so EMT's know difference (quarantine vs isolation).
 4. Measles is back with more cases this year than last. CDC may consider endemic.
 5. Regarding efforts to limit spread of infectious disease, it is suggested to limit social gatherings, and if necessary, close schools.

10. BOH members can avail themselves of emergency preparedness training. Up to 3 hours training will provide an entry level of skills/knowledge while 5 to 10 hours will make one significantly more proficient.
11. Town of Heath noted for degree of readiness when ice storm caused severe damage.
12. Buckland librarian willing to open library for meeting place in event of a crisis. In the wake of Irene in 2011, National Guard had a 2-3 week presence in this areas with Mohawk as their central location.
4. Consider change to regular meeting time and day; Health Agent scheduling conflict - After a brief discussion, board members agreed to the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. as the new day and time for BOH meetings.
5. Potential distillery/cidery on Upper Street - Issues? - Board members met with cidery owner on location. Except for septic system, matters concerning this business are not within purview of the Board of Health. The well would become a public a water supply and would need a "public supply operator" to tend to and test water.
6. Single Use Plastics Ban enforcement discussion - Ban goes into effect Jan 1, 2020. Discussion on any exceptions that apply. BOH to enforce ban.
7. Report on UMass/LMZ Tick Symposium - Marti reported on symposium.
 1. Lone Star tick is here.
 2. Marti passed around a sample of a Long Horned Asian Tick for observation.
 3. There is new DPH subsidy for tick testing.
 4. Discussed "misinformation" and ways to disseminate correct health information regarding tick borne diseases.
 1. Websites for obtaining posters to display publicly were discussed as well as websites and apps for identifying ticks.
 5. Pyrethrin on shoes was suggested as one method of tick repellent. .
8. Report, All Chairs meeting December 5 - Town Administrator Heather Butler called the meeting in preparation for All Boards Meeting.
 1. Buckland Rec's next major step is to install/complete septic system. Discussion on dog poop problem at Rec and how to address it. Have poop bags available? How to dispose of bags?
 2. John Gould addressed affordable housing, currently a topic/project of the Planning Board.
 3. Marti spoke on the Plastics Ban. Also reported on 12 abandoned houses; could they possibly help address affordable housing?
 4. According to John Gould, ZBA will work on air bnb's..
9. Open and process mail - Mail opened and processed.
10. Any other items not reasonably anticipated by Chairman 48 hours prior to meeting -
 1. Short discussion on vacant and abandoned properties. Attorney Richardson informed owner of one property to consult Building Inspector regarding issues with property. Owner wanted letter from BOH stating what is or is not required; Board will not provide letter.

2. Discussion on how to report on (meeting minutes) posted meetings specifically for vacant and abandoned property.
11. Public comment - Phoebe visited the meeting with Open Space Survey results. There were 81 responses.
12. Adjourn the meeting - Rich moved to adjourn, seconded by Terry. Vote to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by Mary Bolduc, Boards' Clerk, January 21, 2020.

Jayla Ester Feb. 18th, 2020
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W. K. R.